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PAGE 1 OF PAGES

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14 OCTOBER 1973

SUBJECT

VIEW THAT THE LPF PLACES LOW PRIORITY

ON RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF AMERICANS MISSING IN ACTION

IN LADS.

1.

WAS ASKED

ABOUT THE POLICY OF THE LPF TO ASSIST IN LOCATING THE MISSING AND KILLED AMERICANS IN LAGS. COMMENT: THE QUESTION WAS PROMPTED BY THE NEWS THAT A DELEGATION OF WIVES AND RELATIVES OF AMERICANS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST OVER LAGS WOULD BE ARRIVING

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IN VIENTIANE AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE LPF DELEGATION IN VIENTIANE .) EXPRESSING ANNOYANCE AT THE PROPOSED ACTIONS OF THE AMERICANS. STATED THAT THE LPF CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE PRIORITIES THAT HAD BEEN PLACED BY THE AMERICANS. AS FAR AS THE LPF IS CONCERNED, THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT AND THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS ATTENDANT WITH ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

- REMARKED THAT THE DEAD ARE DEAD AND BEFORE TURNING ANY ATTENTION TO WHAT THE LPF CONSIDERS LOW ON ITS LIST OF PRIORITIES, THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION MUST BE SCLVED. WHILE THE LPF IS OBVIOUSLY SYMPATHETIC WITH THE AMERICAN WOMEN IN THAT THE LAF BELIEVES THAT THEIR MOTIVES IN COMING TO VIENTIANE REITERATED THAT THE QUESTION OF DEAD BODIES ARE HONORABLE, IS LOW ON THE LPF LIST OF THINGS TO BE DONE AND THAT WHEREAS EVENTUALLY AN EFFORT MIGHT BE MADE TO RESOLVE ALL THE QUESTIONS. IT WOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT ITS PROPER PLACE IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS.
- 3. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE PROTOCOL OF THE VIENTIANE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL PRISONERS, MISSING AND KILLED, REPLIED THAT THE LPF HAS EVERY INTENTION OF COMPLYING

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WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL, BUT SPEAKING FRANKLY, THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING ALL OF THE DETAILS REGARDING THE LOCATION OF DEAD BODIES WOULD NOT BE AT THE HEAD OF THE LIST OF THOSE MATTERS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

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